

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

NCW Libraries

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City of Omak

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For Immediate Release

## **NCW LIBRARIES AND CITY OF OMAK REAFFIRM SHARED COMMITMENT TO LIBRARY SERVICE**

2/10/2026 – NCW Libraries and the City of Omak have reached consensus regarding library services at the Omak Public Library. The updated 10-year contract for library services, pending anticipated final approval by the NCW Libraries Board of Trustees and Omak City Council, ensures uninterrupted, high-quality library service for the Omak community.

Through collaborative conversation, NCW Libraries and the City of Omak reaffirmed a shared goal: to provide robust, reliable library services to every resident of Omak, and the greater Okanogan County community. This agreement establishes a clear path forward rooted in partnership, transparency, and service to the community.

Under the terms of the agreement, library services and programs provided at the City of Omak Public Library will continue unchanged and without interruption under the management of NCW Libraries. Community members can count on the same welcoming spaces, trusted staff, and access to collections, programs, and digital resources.

Both parties also confirmed that work on the Reimagining Spaces Project at the Omak Public Library can resume and move forward as planned. The 10-year memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed by both parties, will remain in place. Supported by more than \$1.5 million, from grant funding and NCW Libraries capital funding, this project will enhance accessibility, modernize interior spaces, and create more welcoming, flexible areas designed to meet the evolving needs of the Omak community for years to come.

NCW Libraries values strong partnerships and has a longstanding commitment to transparency and open communication with municipal partners. Building on that practice, NCW Libraries will provide annual reports to City Council to share library usage, program highlights, and community impact stories. These reports will supplement existing information sharing and help City Council carry out its

role as responsible stewards of public resources, while maintaining a shared understanding of library services and how they benefit the Omak community.

“We are grateful to formalize a way for our staff to share stories with City Council about the incredible impact of the Omak library.” said Barbara Walters, NCW Libraries Executive Director.

In addition, the City of Omak has reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining an active Local Library Board. The Board will serve as a community liaison, supporting communication between the City, NCW Libraries, and Omak residents, and helping ensure local voices continue to be represented.

As final approvals are anticipated in the coming weeks, both organizations look forward to continuing their work together to ensure that the Omak Public Library remains a vibrant, welcoming, and essential public space for the community.

### **About NCW Libraries**

NCW Libraries is an intercounty rural library district serving residents across Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, and Okanogan counties. NCW Libraries operates 30 library locations, a community bookmobile, and a Mail Order Library that delivers materials directly to patrons' homes. NCW Libraries maintains a robust website and extensive digital collection, providing 24/7 access to ebooks, audiobooks, research databases, online learning tools, and other digital resources that support lifelong learning across North Central Washington.